TIMBER TALK

PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS

Volume 48, Issue #10

October 2022

Table of contents

Featured Wood of the Month	2
Chips from the woodpile	3
Editor's Report	4
Thank You Platinum Awards	5
Collection Fleurs	6
The 1880 Dominion Ex wood	7

Our mailing address:

P.O. Box 2643 Station "M" Calgary AB CA T2P3C1

Our officers 2021-2023

President
James Williston
jawilliston@shaw.ca

Past-President, Editor
France D. Waychison
france@waychison.com

Treasurer,Membership Chairman:
Al Munro wood5cents@shaw.ca
(403) 273-6133

Vice-President: Kevin Day-Thorburn
easternpassage@hotmail.com

Board of Directors:

Norm Belsten

Dave Gillespie (On)

Robert (Bob) Fritsch

Karen Dupuis

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Well, another summer has come and gone, but at least life as we know it has slowly returned to normal. This fall will be the first time in three years that the fall coin show circuit is back to normal, and the local club meeting are now for the most part the way they were prior to the Spring of 2019. It is a great way to find new woods for your collection at both the club meeting and coin shows and we all know that being a member of CAWMC is the best way!!

One other way to add to your wooden money collection, is to check out the different auctions that take place on a regular basics. Most of the time there seems to be one or two large lots to check out and bid on.

At the ONA Convention last month, the Southern Ontario Chapter of CAWMC was dissolved. But at least the members of SOC will be still involved with CAWMC. At one time the SOC was active, over the past years the membership has slowly dropped and with only a hand full of members, they thought it was time for the chapter to come to an end.

I was sad to hear about the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. She was the only monarch; I ever knew and remember singing in elementary school "God save the Queen" each morning. It will be interesting to see how her death affects Canadian currency in both coinage and banknotes and the changes it will bring to them.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!!

Cheers, *James*

Featured Wood of the Month

Graciously offered by Judy Blackman

<u>One side of the wood:</u> Canada has a large population of Ukrainian-Canadians and Russian-Canadians, with most arriving in Canada around the same time and sent to Western Canada to farm. Manitoba has a well-represented group of Russian Mennonites, with the first arrival of settlers taking place in 1874. These Russian Mennonites traveled on SS Canadian III bringing 1,533 folks to 21 Manitoba villages (two granted reserves created, called Mennonite West, settled 1875-1876) in 1874. Between1875 and 1880, more than 5,400 arrived in Manitoba. This wood commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the First Arrival of Russian Mennonites in Manitoba.

The Russian Mennonites would have preferred wooded lands or river lots, but other settler groups, or native residents of the province, had staked out most of these already. So, they were led to consider the grassy, and to a degree, swampy, open prairie region just north of the International Border, between Emerson on the Red River and Mountain City near the Pembina Hills. The area had been bypassed by earlier groups. However, as one-time residents of a similar terrain in south Russia, the Mennonites saw the opportunities of the area, and lodged a request with the Canadian government to open another "reserve" for them here. Thereupon seventeen more townships were laid out, to a depth of eighteen miles north of the border between the Red River and the western hills.'

The "West Reserve", as it came to be called was, according to one authority, "really the first permanent agricultural settlement ever established in the open prairies of western Canada without direct access to a major body or current of water". It also turned out to be some of the best farmland in the whole province of Manitoba." When an Order-in-Council of 1876 finally set this land aside for exclusive use by the Mennonites from Russia, it brought the total acreage of the two reserves to just over 500,000 acres, or about 6% of the total area of Manitoba as constituted in 1881.

<u>The other side of the wood:</u> Technically there is scientific evidence of human life in Churchill going back 4,000 years; however, 1769 is the first time Churchill was officially a science centre. Churchill was designated this for the 1769 Astronomical Observations (Northern Lights) and that it is also the World's Polar Bear Capital. 2024 marks the 255th Anniversary of Canada's First Astronomical Observations.

<u>Specs:</u> One hundred of these woods were produced with 2 sent to me (Judy Blackman) and 98 sent to CAWMC for the Feature Wood of the Month for an Autumn 2022 month. These are silk-screened onto recycled beetle kill pine and then coated with a child-safe lacquer to keep the design from wearing off the wood. They were made by Jim Smith of woodencoin.com, located on the side of a mountain in Likely, BC *Judy Blackman*

Chips from the Woodpile …. *By Dave Gillespie*

New Brunswick was named in 1784 to honour the reigning British monarch, King George lll, who was also the Duke of Brunswick. A 200th Anniversary wood sponsored by NBTel was issued in 1984 (catalogue # 3300-053D). NBTel was founded as the New Brunswick Telephone Company in 1888 after Bell Telephone Company attempted to establish telephone services in the Maritimes. In 1973 NBTel obtained a monopoly in the province with the purchase of the last independent telephone operator. Several other woods were also issued and shown in the catalogue promoting the 200th Anniversary logo on their reverse.

One of Edmonton's favourite cottage destinations originated in 1912 when the Canadian National Railway (CNR) began sending employees to the shores of Lac St. Anne for holidays. A 1918 issue of the Edmonton newspaper noted that CNR charged $1.00 return fare on its Civic Holiday Excursion Train from Edmonton to Alberta Beach. Other companies soon 'jumped on board' and began transporting their employees and families to Alberta Beach to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the lake. By 1920, the Summer Village of Alberta Beach had been incorporated, offering attractions such as a dance pavilion, walking pier, boardwalk and campground to visitors. On weekends, a special CNR train called the "Moonlight Express" brought people to the Beach and it wasn't long before hotels, boat rentals, bait shops, gift & souvenir shops, restaurants, etc. were established, not to mention Uncle John's Museum for which there are several woods issued and shown in the Canadian catalogue. In 1936 CNR stopped running to Alberta Beach and sold its interests.

In August of 1998 a wood was made and issued by Norm Belsten to recognize his 65th birthday. Another wood came off the hot stamping machine in 2013 as he celebrated the Big "80". Norm, known to almost all our members has supported the hobby over the years as a wooden money maker, director, bulletin editor, president and catalogue editor. He has, for many years, organized and looked after meetings for the Southern Ontario Chapter of C.A.W.M.C. at Ontario Numismatic Society functions. We look to Norm for updates on the Canadian Listing and Picture catalogues and we will be looking for another Birthday wood in 2023.

In 2013, Miller Farms of Platteville, Colorado while working to promote its business and trade introduced a wooden $5.00 token to be used for the purchase of fruits and veggies. Discounts were, and I believe still are, available for these tokens if purchased in bulk (increments of 20). This is a great idea, using wooden money to get a business started and to promote trade. I believe that in Canada a few markets have woods available, and these woods are listed. If you know of a business in your area using wooden money, write a short article for the editor to share with our members.

A man was visiting his daughter and son-in-law for a weekend and asked if he could borrow the newspaper for a second. This is the 21st Century said his son-in-law, we don't waste money on newspapers. Here you can use my iPad. When the man returned the iPad he said to his son-in-law, "Let me tell you, that fly never knew what hit him".

Til next time …… Let the Chips lie where they fall. Dave Gillespie

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

EDITOR'S REPORT FOR 2021

Timber Talk was published monthly in 2021. The August edition had 6 pages, The May, June July, October, November, and December issues had 8 pages each. January, February, March, April, and September issues had 10 pages each.

Because of postage costs for our printed copy clients, still important at 13 out of 84 members (15%), we try to limit the number of sheets of paper to 4, or 8 pages per issue.

In those 12 issues, we managed to publish 42 original articles, which include the work of two columnists, Dave Gillespie with "Chips from the woodpile" and Vic Agha, with "woods of the World".

For these articles and columns, we thank Dave Gillespie, who wrote 12, Vic Agha, who sent seven articles. Your editor wrote six articles. Judy Blackman wrote five. R Kingdon, Al Munro, Dusty Philips wrote two each, while Barry Uman, Andre Paradis, Bob Fritsch, Gene Simms, Yvon Marquis and James Williston wrote one each. Your editor is very grateful for each article offered for publication in Timber Talk. The reserve of article is getting low, so I encourage everybody to contribute one article, or two, to our monthly newsletter.

Editor's report…Continued

Thank You Woods Reward program

Between the start of the program in September 2020 and December 2021, 14 collaborators have received between 1 and 8 Thank You woods, depending on the number of articles submitted and published since the beginning of the Program.

Furthermore, Silver awards and Gold awards have been presented to our long time proof readers and other people without whom writing, editing, printing and generally delivering your Timber Talk ON TIME would be difficult. These members are Dave Gillespie ON, Al Munro and Ross Kingdon.

Today I would like to present each of them with a Platinum award.

To Dave Gillespie ON (left on picture), because, even after his retrospective 24 + columns ended, he continues to provide monthly articles for your enjoyment.

To Al Munro (center), a long time writer, proof-reader, general consigliere, distributor of the TT for many, many years.

To Ross Kingdon (right), a long-time proof-reader, who actually wrote up most of the Featured Woods of the month for so many years, who printed and mailed the so-called snail-mail for many years, for so many years and packed and mailed these woods for many more years than he cares to remember.

Thank you, gentlemen, you certainly all deserve this award!

France D Waychison

Collection Fleurs *by Apprentis Numismates*

Flowers Series

Four woods are planned for this series and will each feature a coin-related seasonal flower. The club's mascot, Nic le fouineur, will appear on all reverses.

The first wood, unveiled at Nuphilex in Montreal QC in April 2022, shows a sakura (cherry) blossom taken from the Japanese 100 yen coin. The Sakura is the symbol of Japan. It expresses beauty, gentleness, kindness. Her short life symbolizes the transience of beauty. The particularity of the sakuras is to be carried away by the wind in full bloom. They do not wither and die beautiful.

In May 2022, in Saguenay QC, Apprentis unveiled a wood showing the spray of hibiscus from the 15-cent piece of the Bahamas. Polynesian women used to put a hibiscus in their hair. When they wore the flower on the right, it meant they were looking for a partner. Married women wore the flower on the left.

The next two tokens will be issued in November 2022 and February 2023.

The first two woods are available for $4 plus $1.50 postage (total $5.50), can be ordered by emailing france@waychison.com and payable by e-transfer to same or by cheque to France D. Waychison P.O. Box 466, Stn MAIN Timmins ON P4N 7E3.

Please indicate your interest into acquiring the next two woods.

The 1880 Dominion Exposition Wood

By: France D. Waychison

According to the book *Canadian Wooden Money/ tokens and souvenirs*, this wood was created by using a die created for a medal commemorating the 1880 Montreal Dominion Exhibition. At the time, Mr. Joseph LeRoux M.D., a well known collector and cataloguer, whose catalogue is still in use today, was granted exclusive Medal Rights at the Exhibition. The design and engraving were done by Geo. Bishop and Co., in association with M.E. Lymburger. The diameter of the medal is 36.3 mm.

The obverse of the medal shops the Chrystal Palace, surrounded by the inscription:" To Commemorate the Dominion Exhibition help in Montreal/ September 1880. The reverse, in French, shows a beaver lying on two branches of maple leaves, (…). Between these branches, the inscription Souvenir/de l'Exposition/ de la Puissance/ Tenue à Montréal /en Septembre/ 1880. 1500 White metal and two silver medals were struck and sold.

A word here about the French side of the medal. I was quite puzzled by the "Exposition de la Puissance". It is known that many cities in Canada hosted a Dominion Exposition from 1879 (Ottawa ON) to 1913 (Brandon MB). Montreal hosted the exposition in 1880 and 1884. The *Exposition Agricole et Industrielle de la Puissance du Canada* seems to be the french (lenghty) sanctioned translation of the words "Dominion Exposition"

Exposition Agricole et Industrielle de la Puissance du Canada.

OUVERTE A L'UNIVERS.

LISTE DES PRIX

REGLES ET REGLEMENTS

— DE —

L'EXPOSITION DE LA PUISSANCE

— QUI AURA LIEU SUR LE —

TERRAIN DE L'EXPOSITION, MILE-END

(Pres le Parc Mont-Royal,)

— DANS LA —

CITÉ DE MONTREAL

L'ouverture se fera MARDI, 14 Septembre 1880, a 9 hs. A. M., et la cloture VENDREDI, 24 Septembre, a 2 heures P. M.

$20,000 OFFERTS EN PRIX.

Bureau du Conseil d'Agriculture, 63 Rue St. Gabriel, Montréal.
Bureau du Conseil des Arts, - 181 Rue St. Jacques, Montréal.

Ok, you'll say, it's a medal, so… Wait up, it gets interesting for us, woodies.

LeRoux, **Joseph**, 1849-1904

Dr. LeRoux, for whatever reason, decided to strike wooden tokens using the die constructed for the metallic pieces described above. He ordered 500 black walnut planchets to realise the project.

Whoever oversaw striking the planchets didn't get very far, as the planchets were too large for the die. It is also believed that the die broke because the wood chosen was too hard to strike. All and all, Norman Wells estimated the final number of the 1880 Dominion Exposition wood to be 30, existing in various thicknesses. There is also, apparently, a Coin struck (↓↑) specimen out there.

A recent Zoom conversation among seasoned woodies revealed that just about everyone of the persons present owned one or two Dominion Exposition wood, which brought a bit of discussion about its "rarity" and how many woods were really issued at the time. Unless one of us learns how to travel back in time, we'll likely never know.

One of these rare woods came up for auction in April 2022. The auction Catalogue (Geoffrey Bell Auctions, Michael Joffre Collection of Canadian Historic Medals, Toronto Coin Expo Sale #26, April 28, 2022, Lot 225) had an opening bid at $150. The piece sold for $200, before buyer's fees and taxes, for a total of $271.20.

Ref: Norman Wells, *Canadian Wooden Money/ tokens and souvenirs*, 2nd edition, June 1979. Pronto-Print, page 31